3721

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Theodore Martin Boyl-Davis, et al. Confirmation No.:

9593

R. Kert 7/31/03 #5/Election

**PATENT** 

Appl No.:

10/016,524

Group Art Unit:

3721

Filed:

December 10, 2001

Examiner:

Brian D. Nash

For:

FLEXIBLE TRACK DRILLING MACHINE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 30, 2003, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Group I, namely Claims 1-16, Group II, namely Claims 17-23, and Group III, namely Claims 24-28. Applicant hereby provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-16) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

RECEIVED

JUL 3 0 2003

**TECHNOLOGY CENTER B3700** 

CUSTOMER NO. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP

Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000 Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

Respectfully submitted,

Gosnell

Registration No. 34,610

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on July 25, 2003

CLT01/4602586v1